

Message Text

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70

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 AID-20 HEW-08 INR-11 PA-04 PRS-01 RSC-01

SCA-01 SCSE-00 SWF-02 PC-04 IO-14 AGR-20 COME-00

IGA-02 SP-03 SS-20 NSC-07 H-03 L-03 PM-07 EUR-25

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O R 260034Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 8128

INFO JCS

DIA

AMCONSUL BELIZE

AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMZYBASSY SAN SALVADOR 3597

USCINCSO IMMEDIATE

COMUSARSO IMMEDIATE

COMUSAFSO IMMEDIATE

COMSUNAVSO IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS TEGUCIGALPA 4063

STATE PASS AID/PHA/FDRC

E.O. 11652: N/A

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SUBJECT: HURRICANE FIFI - SITREP 13

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1. AMBASSADOR'S TRIP ON NORTH COAST DISASTER AREA ON
SEPTEMBER 23-24 UNCOVERED CERTAIN PROBLEMS IN THE RELIEF
EFFORT. A COMMITTEE REPRESENTING THE PRIVATE AND PUBLIC
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SECTOR UNDER THE DE FACTO LEADERSHIP OF SAN PEDRO SULA MAYOR,

HENRY HOIST LEIVA, IS CHARGED WITH ORGANIZING THE CITY RELIEF EFFORT. HOWEVER, COMMUNICATION AT VARIOUS LEVELS OF THE ORGANIZATION IS DEFICIENT. THE ORGANIZATIONAL DIFFICULTIES AFFECT COMMUNICATIONS, TRANSPORTATION AND DISTRIBUTION. FURTHERMORE, COORDINATION BETWEEN VARIOUS GOVERNMENT AND PRIVATE AGENCIES INVOLVED IN THE RELIEF EFFORT IS INADEQUATE. A MEETING OF INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE AGENCIES WAS CONVENED ON SEPTEMBER 24 AT RED CROSS HEADQUARTERS TO DISCUSS COORDINATION PROBLEMS WITH COPEN, THE NATIONAL RELIEF COMMITTEE. THE GROUP WILL DEFINE PROBLEMS AND OFFER POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS.

2. USMILGP COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK OPERATING ON FOLLOWING FREQUENCIES IN SUPPORT OF DISASTER RELIEF EFFORTS:

DAY - UPPER SIDEBAND 7315

NIGHT - UPPER SIDEBAND 3700.

3. PEACE CORPS HAS ONLY TWO VOLUNTEERS STILL UNACCOUNTED FOR AND THEY ARE NOT LOCATED IN DISASTER AREA. PEACE CORPS IN OTHER CENTRAL AND SOUTH AMERICAN COUNTRIES HAS OFFERED MEDICAL AND ENGINEERING PERSONNEL. EIGHT PEACE CORPS ENGINEERS AND HEAVY EQUIPMENT OPERATORS PRESENTLY WORKING IN LOWER SULA VALLEY. THREE ADDITIONAL ENGINEERS WORKING WITH CARE IN SAN PEDRO SULA AREA. NINE NURSES ARE WORKING IN CHOLOMA AND PROGRESO AND THREE NUTRITIONISTS WORKING IN HOSPITAL IN PROGRESO.

4. CARE RECEIVED \$100,000 FROM STANDARD FRUIT COMPANY FOR RELIEF EFFORTS. CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES RECEIVED OBLIGATION OF \$85,000 FROM GERMAN AND \$35,000 FROM CANADIAN SOURCES. SUPPLIES CONTINUE TO ARRIVE FROM OTHER COUNTRIES AS WELL AS FROM FOREIGN PRIVATE ORGANIZATIONS. FORMER AMBASSADOR TO U.S. ROBERTO GALVEZ BARNES HAS BEEN NAMED COORDINATOR FOR ALL INTERNATIONAL AID.

5. A TELEVISION-RADIO CAMPAIGN BEING CONDUCTED IN TEGUCIGALPA FOR MONEY AND SUPPLIES FOR DISASTER AREA. COSTA RICA CONDUCTING TELETHON TO COLLECT MONEY FOR HONDURAS AND IS SENDING HEAVY EQUIPMENT AND OPERATORS. NICARAGUA ALSO CONDUCTING TELETHON TO COLLECT SUPPLIES AND MONEY FOR HONDURAS.

6 WALTER SEDWITZ, EXECUTIVE SECRETARY, 1-A EMERGENCY
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ASSISTANCE COMMITTEE, CONVENED MEETING 9/25 REPS FOLLOWING INTERNATIONAL AGENCIES: OAS, PAHO, UNICEF, UNDP, CABEL, AID, IDB AND UN DISASTER RELIEF OFFICE, GENEVA. MEETING FOCUSED ON EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION ON PRESENT EMERGENCY RELIEF OPERATIONS AND MEDIUM AND LONG-TERM APPROACHES TO RECONSTRUCTION PROBLEM. GENERAL CONSENSUS WAS THAT PRIORITY EMERGENCY NEEDS IN AFFECTED AREA ARE: FOOD, WATER AND MEDICAL AID (PERSONAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL). ALSO THAT EMERGENCY AID SHOULD PROBABLY NOT CONTINUE

BEYOND TWO MONTHS AFTER WHICH RECONSTRUCTION SHOULD START CENTERING AROUND FOOD-FOR-WORK PROGRAMS TO ATTACK PROBLEMS OF UNEMPLOYMENT, INFRASTRUCTURE REBUILDING, AND RENEWED AGRICULTURE PRODUCTION. WITH REGARD TO LATTER POINT, EVERYONE AGREED ON IMMEDIATE NEED FOR BASIC GRAIN SEEDS (BEANS, CORN, RICE), INSECTICIDES, CREDIT, AND OTHER INPUTS.

7 IDB PREPARED REPROGRAM BALANCE EXISTING LOANS AS FOLLOWS: FROM INTEGRATED URBAN DEVELOPMENT TO CONSTRUCTION EMERGENCY HOUSING AND FROM HIGHWAY EQUIPMENT AND MAINTENANCE TO RECONSTRUCTION SAN PEDRO SULA- PUERTO CORTES AND SAN PEDRO SULA-LA-CIEBA HIGHWAYS. ALSO PREPARED REOGWENZSOTHER LOANS, INCLUDING RURAL WATER SYSTEMS AND AGRICULTURAL CREDIT TO RESPONSE TO CURRENT PRIORITY NEEDS. HAVE PROGRAMMED \$560,000 FOR FLOOD CONTROL IN SULA VALLEY. WILL REQUEST IDB/W AUTHORITY FOR GREATER FLEXIBILITY IN LOAN APPROVALS, LOAN CONDITIONS, DISBURSEMENTS, ETC. TO RESPOND MORE EFFECTIVELY AND QUICKLY TO CURRENT SITUATION.

8. CABEI HAS DECLARED 20-DAY MORATORIUM ON PAYMENTS AND IS CONSIDERING EXTENDING THIS TO 2 YEARS FOLLOWING NICARAGUAN PATTERN. CABEI WILL REPROGRAM TELECOMMUNICATIONS LOAN TO SHIFT FROM PURCHASE OF NEW EQUIPMENT TO PURCHASE OF SPARE PARTS TO REHABILITATE PRESENT SYSTEM. IN HOUSING AREA, PLAN TO UTILIZE PART OF RECENTLY APPROVED \$46 MILLION HOUSING GUARANTEE FOR EMERGENCY HOUSING WHICH WILL DRAW DOWN ON EXISTING SURPLUS LUMBER STOCKS. CABEI HAS SET UP INFORMAL WORK GROUP OF CENTRAL AMERICAN INTEGRATION INSTITUTIONS TO COORDINATE STRATEGY REGARDING HONDURAN SITUATION PRIOR TO UPCOMING IMF-IBRD GOVERNORS MEETING. IN INDUSTRY, CEMENT FACTORY HARDEST HIT. ESTIMATES ON HOW SOON PLANT COULD RESUME PRODUCTION RUNS FROM 15-45 DAYS. CABEI DOING STUDY OF 30 INDUSTRIES TO DETERMINE COUNTRY-WIDE IMPACT OF DISASTER ON ECONOMY. CABEI THINKING IN TERMS OF 5-YEAR RECONSTRUCTION PLAN PARALLELING GOH 5-YEAR DEVELOPMENT PLAN.
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9. GAS REPRESENTATIVES GAVE FOLLOWING FIGURES CITING NATIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL AS SOURCE: 140,000 DWELLING UNITS DAMAGED, OF WHICH 40-50 PERCENT WERE DESTROYED; 7,500 UNEMPLOYED; \$50 MILLION DOLLARS BANANA COMPANY LOSSES; 90 PERCENT OF BANANA CROP LOST; 100 PERCENT OF SULA VALLEY CATTLE LOST. ALSO STATED BANANA COMPANIES HAVE PETITIONED MINISTRY LABOR PERMISSION RELEASE 60 PERCENT PRESENT WORK FORCE.

10 AID REVIEWED ITS RELIEF EFFORTS TO DATE AND INFORMED GROUP WE ARE UNDERTAKING LONGER TERM PLANNING. IN SEPARATE 9/24 MEETING WITH MINISTER OF FINANCE HE WAS ENCOURAGED TO LOOK AT TOTAL LOAN PORTFOLIO IN LIGHT OF CURRENT SITUATION TO SEE IF CHANGES REORIENTING PROGRAMS TOWARD DISASTER RELATED RECONSTRUCTION

EFFORTS ARE INDICATED.

11. AMBASSADOR LEFT TEGUCIGALPA LATE AFTERNOON SEPTEMBER 25
TO REVIEW SITUATION IN NORTHERN DISASTER AREAS. HE IS PLANNING TO
RETURN TO CAPITAL AT APPROXIMATELY NOON ON SEPTEMBER 26. AT THAT
TIME A FURTHER SITREP AND REQUIREMENT TELEGRAM WILL BE SENT.
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